

military defeat sapped the South's confidence that God favored their cause and further demoralized the Southerners. This demoralization contributed to a fifty-three per cent desertion rate by mid-1864. The authors effectively challenge previous interpretations of Confederate defeat such as the idea that internal dissension over states rights issues defeated the South by pointing out that independent policies of states like North Carolina did not effectively hinder the war effort.

For the student of military history, the book argues that the adherence of both sides to the nineteenth-century concept of huge turning movements advocated by Clausewitz and Jomini were used most effectively by the South. Such movements allowed Southerners to fight defensively and tended to equalize the armies and in fact put the South at an advantage. The Union blockade of the South is seen as ineffective and the general equality of the two armies' fighting capacity meant that a decisive blow to the South was never feasible. Up to the last Southern Armies were well supplied and generally equal to the North, especially when one considers the North's commitment of one-third of its forces to simply protect its supply lines in Southern territory. This did away with the numerical superiority of the North as a decisive factor. Grant's policy of warfare that amounted to large scale raids on the Southern interior were demoralizing; however, they left most of the South still in Southern control. The Southern decision not to engage in guerrilla warfare at the end indicates demoralization more than defeat.

Confederate commitment to the war was never that strong. Some three to five per cent of the Southern population fought the war as opposed to ten per cent in modern wars and much higher percentages in special cases. The authors point out that little Paraguay committed some fifty per cent of its people to a war.

The authors contend that in reality the South won the Civil War. After the war both Northern and Southern states became followers of states rights. Southern historians ignored slavery as a cause of the war and emphasized states rights as the more glorious cause. Slavery itself was merely replaced by the doctrine of white supremacy.

All teachers of history would be wise to incorporate most of these ideas into their explanations of the South's defeat. The much overrated military accounts of the war ignore other crucial factors in the defeat of the Confederacy. The South was a far more complex society than the usual explanations allow for. For the typical student the book demands a certain degree of prior knowledge, both of Civil War events and historiography. It would be helpful to use this book in conjunction with other accounts of the war. The book itself is a synthesis of earlier works on this subject like the authors' work *Why the South Lost the Civil War* and Henry Hattaway and Archer Jones's *How the North Won: A Military History of the Civil War*. The book is an excellent response to other historiographical classics on the Civil War.

Mountain View College

Richard L. Means

***The Civil War: Two Views.* 75 minutes. One videocassette, teacher's notes, pre- and post-tests, simulation, chronology, activities. Available in Beta (7VB 0036) or VHS (7VH 0036). Order from Audio Visual, Inc., 17 Marble Ave., Pleasantville, NY 10570. \$189.00.**

This videocassette is intended for use by students in grades seven through twelve. Besides the seventy-five minute tape, the purchase package contains numerous teacher assistance materials such as a text transcription, sample test questions, bibliographical guides, and a creative simulation exercise section.

"The Civil War: Two Views" is a somewhat deceptive title with regard to this offering. Instead, three major subjects are addressed in the same film. Although the topics are certainly interrelated, time constraints and a less than skillful job of editing combine to produce an unbalanced product in both quality and quantity.

The video features four parts: the North before the war; the South before the war; the war itself; and the war's aftermath (Reconstruction). By far, the first two segments are the best. The script is fairly even and nicely paced while the economic, political, and social forces and factors that created a hostile atmosphere between the two diverse sections of the nation are adequately explored. The primary flaw here, however, is that some issues and events are not properly introduced, while others are presented out of chronological sequence or incorrectly.

Part Three, the war years, is also satisfactorily managed. Numerous camp and battle scenes combine with statistical data to make telling points and deliver perspective about this bloody American tragedy. But one wonders why greater use was not made of the wide range of photographic

collections readily available from those years.

The final segment, that dealing with Reconstruction, is certainly the least successful installment. It is entirely too simple, incomplete, and disjointed to be otherwise. The issues of the hour remain fragmented and cloudy. And one finds it ironic that while excessive emphasis is accorded blacks during this era, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution is not even mentioned.

In printed and visual particulars, "The Civil War: Two Views" could have been improved had more attention been given to proofing (the war did not begin in 1860, for example) and less to background music that is frequently annoying and counterproductive. Perhaps some of the defects of this work are the result of transferring an earlier filmstrip to a "new" medium. A competent instructor who recognizes the deficiencies of this endeavor, however, will go some distance in the direction of making it worthwhile in the classroom.

Bainbridge College

Robert W. Dubay

Ross Gregory. *America 1941: A Nation at the Crossroads*. New York: The Free Press, 1989. Pp. x, 339. Cloth, \$22.95.

Americans have a continuing fascination with World War II. This interest is reflected in a recent avalanche of books, films, and television miniseries about the "Good War." Among the best of these is Ross Gregory's engaging portrait of America on the verge of war. In impressive detail, he captures a nation lurching toward an uncertain future.

Gregory opens with a cogent description of Franklin Roosevelt's December 29, 1940, "fireside chat," a radio address that outlined the perilous new year for his listeners. Americans in 1941 were constantly bombarded with news of Asian and European wars, yet many of them were reluctant to prepare for or think seriously about an American role in another world war.

Gregory's entire work revolves around this contradictory sense of reluctance and uncertainty coupled with a feeling that climactic changes were imminent. Holding up a mirror to American society, he describes in succeeding chapters the creation of the first peacetime conscripted army and an economy recovering from depression and coping with labor disputes, government planning, and consumer demands. Many of Gregory's Americans are also on the move to new homes, coping with rural poverty, and losing interest in mainstream religion. These themes, along with chapters on Americans' penchants for entertainment and a detailed appraisal of blacks' status as the war began, are skillfully woven together to create a picture of political, economic, and social life before Pearl Harbor. The concluding chapter ends the uncertainty and ushers the nation into war.

Several aspects of Gregory's book make it especially valuable as a classroom resource for courses on World War II, American social history, and twentieth-century America. No one can accuse Gregory of muddling prose; his writing style is lucid, terse, and easily approachable. This is professional historical writing at its best—engaging, challenging, and readable.

The text is complemented by the judicious use of references and photographs. Gregory lets the voices of Americans in 1941 speak by relying heavily on contemporary newspaper and periodical accounts as well as memoirs, novels, and historical accounts from the postwar period. Photographs, many of them from National Archives and Library of Congress collections, focus on personalities from the era and aspects of rapidly changing daily life.

Teachers will find the book's organization particularly conducive to classroom use. Gregory builds each chapter around a particular theme. In "Things of the Flesh," changes in Americans' behavior are illustrated by examining smoking and drinking practices, marijuana use, dancing, sexual conduct, divorce, and the status of women in 1941. Personal accounts, statistical reports, and references are carefully interspersed with the author's observations, interpretations, and conclusions. While each chapter can easily stand on its own as an introduction to a topic, this thematic approach does not detract from the book's tightly constructed unity.

Ross Gregory has crafted an impressive chronicle of tradition and change, of a simpler era before television, computers, and the Bomb. Superb writing, accessible organization, and detailed references combine with a fascinating subject to make Ross Gregory's *America 1941* a valuable contribution to bookshelf and classroom.

Lincoln, Nebraska

Steve Potts